

Addressing Iowa's Water Quality

Regional Water Quality Meetings

October 2003

Purpose To raise awareness about Iowa's water quality issues and to help generate local interest in solving these problems.

Background Iowa's waters are a treasure. They are required for business, industrial and domestic use. But they are also the basis of a significant part of the quality of life we enjoy, and their future is our future. For Iowa to prosper, we must improve the quality of life and make it a place people want to live. Quality of life is what attracts creative people, keeps our Iowa-educated children here, and promotes development of a diverse, successful economy. Governor Vilsack has recognized the critical role water has in Iowa's future and made water quality one of his top priorities.

Tonight, we'll attempt to provide a picture of our current water quality and open a dialogue with people about water in their future.

Agenda

- Introduction
- Water Quality in Iowa
- Nutrients in Iowa's Waters
- Impaired Waters
- Successful Local Water Quality Programs
- Discussion on Water Quality

More information Iowa's Impaired Waters List may be found at www.state.ia.us/epd/wtresrce/303notc.htm.

Feedback Your comments on water quality, water protection policies or existing laws and programs are welcome. Send email to water.summit@dnr.state.ia.us or mail your comments to Bernard Hoyer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace Office Building, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034.



Red Haw State Park

Governor's Iowa Water Summit

November 24, 2003

Mission The charge of the Iowa Water Summit is to establish a roadmap to eliminate impaired waters in Iowa. Diverse groups will come together at the summit to identify consensus solutions to Iowa's water quality problems, and outline specific steps that Iowa can take to achieve this goal.

"We have a responsibility as a state to clean our waterways," Governor Vilsack said. "As we work to create opportunities for good jobs and to recruit and retain well-educated workers, we need to recognize the economic advantages of clean waterways. This is a crucial issue for our future and should be viewed as a top priority for state government."

Background The Governor's Iowa Water Summit signals an unprecedented commitment by all sectors for Iowa to address impaired waters. Water impairments result from a variety of sources - most of which result from

Governor's Iowa Water Summit (con't.)

broad economic activities and are not easily resolved. The summit seeks to increase public awareness of water quality issues and begin to develop solutions. Participants will study the current impaired waters list and will also focus attention on other waterways that are impaired by nutrients but do not currently qualify for the impaired waters list. Work groups will study specific policy areas and make recommendations to the summit participants. Other goals of the summit will be to review existing programs and policies, identify innovative solutions, establish priorities, assign responsibilities, set timetables for action, and identify financial resource needs.

Summit participants will make recommendations to the Governor's Iowa Water Summit Planning Team for development of final, consensus recommendations.

Format of the Summit

At a morning plenary session in the auditorium, speakers will address the goals of the conference, describe water quality issues, and summarize preliminary recommendations made by work groups on five water quality topics. A Taste of Iowa luncheon will include a featured speaker from Washington, D.C. In the afternoon, participants will break into discussion groups, each focused upon preliminary recommendations made by earlier work groups. Their task will be to evaluate and provide feedback on those recommendations. Summit participants will have an opportunity to suggest modifications or priorities, or propose new recommendations. Suggestions from these discussion groups will be briefly reported at a closing plenary session. Following the important work of the day, participants will have the opportunity to discuss water quality issues at an informal reception.

The original work groups will use ideas generated at the summit to reevaluate their original recommendations. These work groups, in turn, will make revised recommendations to the Governor and his Water Summit Planning committee for approval of final consensus recommendations. These recommendations may guide Iowa water policy in the future and may lead to proposed legislative action or task force activities, or guide agency policies and programs.

Location Scheman Conference Center, Iowa State University, Ames, IA. The Scheman Center is located at the Iowa State Center off Lincoln Way and Elwood Drive. A map is available at www.center.iastate.edu/directions.html.

Date November 24, 2003

Time Sign-in at 8:00 A.M.; program begins at 9:00 A.M.; reception begins at 5:00 P.M.

Accommodations A block of rooms has been set aside for Sunday night, November 23, and Monday night, November 24, for participants who desire accommodations before or after the conference. Contact:

The Hotel at Gateway Center
US HWY 30 and Elwood Drive
Ames IA 50010
Telephone 515-292-8600
or 800-FOR-AMES

Questions and Inquiries Or, check www.visitames.com for a complete listing of Ames hotels.

Contact Lisa Ogle at 515-281-5384.

Registration and Web Information \$25.00, registration forms will be available on the DNR website at www.iowadnr.com on October 20, 2003. Open registration will be limited to 200 participants.